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THE OFFICIAL MATCH DAY MAGAZINE OF THE SOUTH MELBOURNE SOCCER CLUB

EST. 1959 SOUTH MELBOURNE S.C.

match program

SOUTH MELBOURNE SOCCER CLUB

ROUND 9
VS
WOLLONGONG
DECEMBER 6

ROUND 11
VS
NORTHERN SPIRIT
DECEMBER 20

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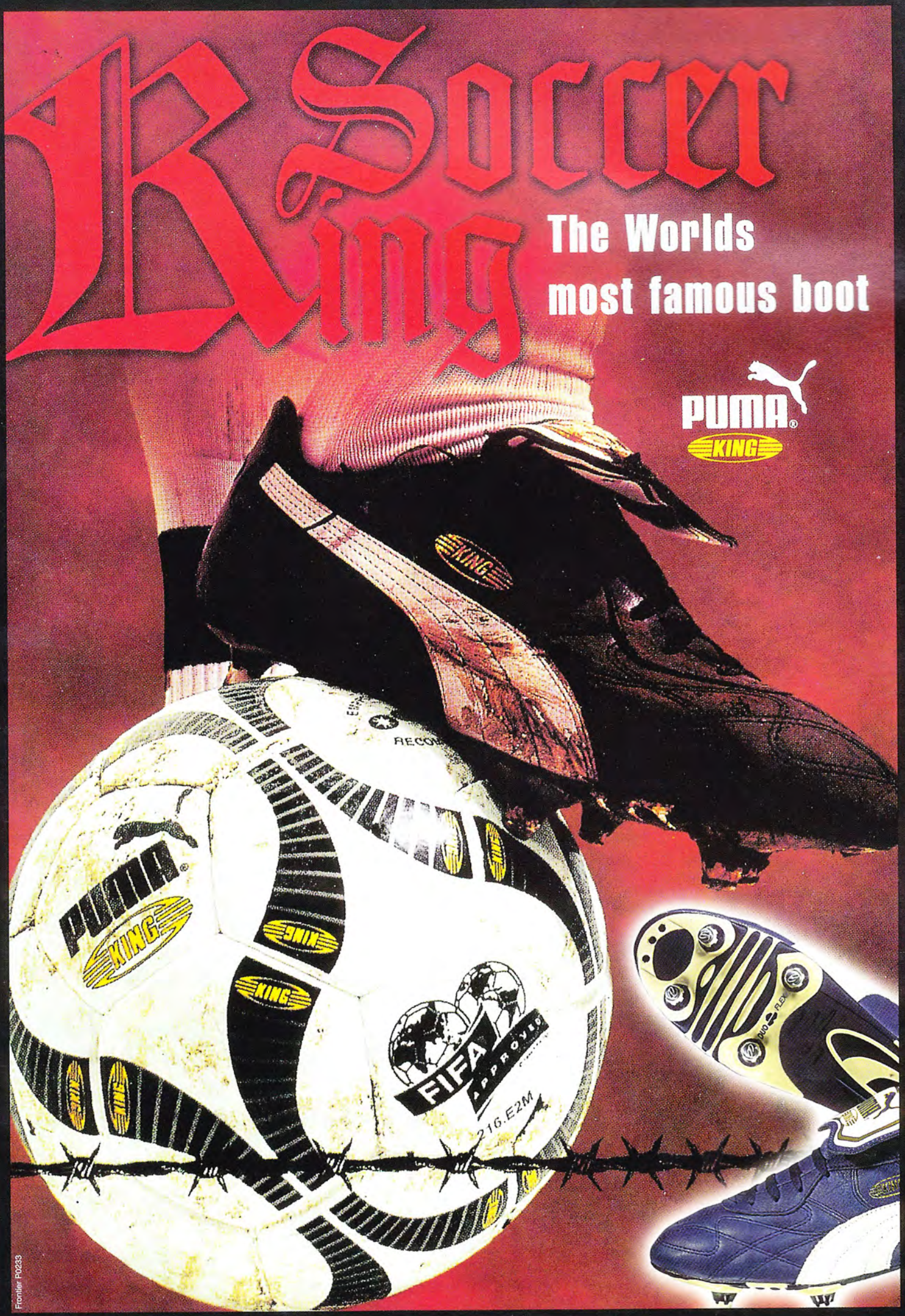

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to another big clash today between South Melbourne and Wollongong where we are sure to witness an entertaining encounter full of goal-mouth action.

The last game at the Bob Jane Stadium against Carlton saw an impressive crowd of 11,522 who witnessed eight goals and plenty of action providing a perfect advertisement on Channel 2 live Australia wide. The 11,522 that attended the game would have walked away from the Bob Jane Stadium satisfied with a good afternoon out at the soccer. It is this message we should be conveying to all our friends and colleagues. The Bob Jane Stadium welcomes everyone and provides a great atmosphere for soccer needless to mention world class action on the park. Whether you are Greek or not makes no difference because South Melbourne is Victoria's favourite soccer team.

The week after this big game, I had many phone calls from people all over Australia who felt that the 11,522 crowd provided more atmosphere at the Bob Jane Stadium than an 18,000 crowd does at Perth Oval. This pleases me because the Bob Jane Stadium was designed to provide atmosphere where people can enjoy watching soccer in a specific-purpose soccer stadium.

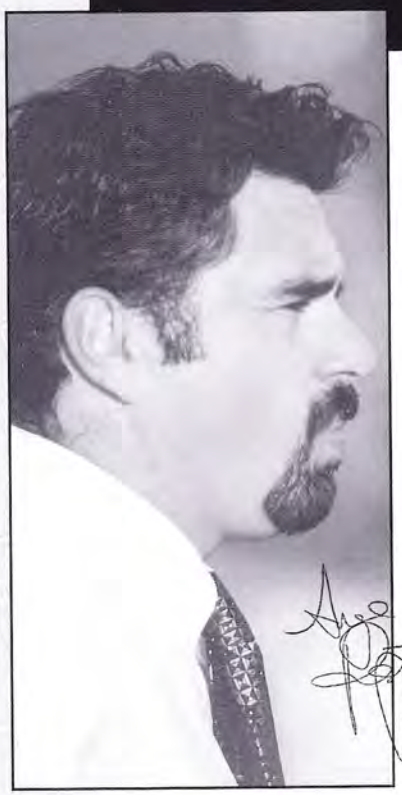
Today we have pleasure in hosting Melbourne University vs La Trobe University as a curtain raiser and have provided free entry to all students on this special University Day. The next game against Northern Spirit will be Ladies Day where all ladies will be provided free entry. So we encourage you all to bring the ladies in your lives, your wives, girlfriends, daughters, mothers, aunties and grandmothers.

The next two games at the Bob Jane Stadium are against Northern Spirit and Sydney United which will be magnificent games to witness. We look forward to seeing you in a fortnight in our game against the newcomers Northern Spirit where we dedicate the day to the ladies.

George Vasilopoulos
President.

On behalf of the South Melbourne Soccer Club I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and safe New Year

COACH'S REPORT



The month of December sees us playing an important stretch of games that will give us the opportunity to consolidate our position.

While not totally unhappy with our form this year, I have felt that our results have not been as favourable as I would have liked.

Facing Wollongong today is going to be a real test as they come here with coach Nick Theodorakopoulos probably disappointed that his team hasn't started as well as expected. However, I still feel that they are a quality side who will give the top six a shake again.

Our next home game against Northern Spirit will also stretch us as they look like they are starting to hit their straps. With names such as Graeme Arnold and Robbie Slater, another big crowd is expected.

For our part it is important that we find some consistency in our results more than our performance and that we don't lapse in concentration at any stage.

The noise from the grandstand and terraces will certainly help us in achieving that goal.

Con's unlucky streak

Con Blatsis' freakish run of injuries have had him, his coach and South Melbourne supporters pulling their hair out, writes Nicholas Tzaferis.

THE type of luck South defender Con Blatsis has been of having of late with injuries would see him play evens on the roulette wheel at the casino all night only to see hundreds of odd numbers frustratingly fall in one after one.

Achilles tendon, hamstring and quadricep injuries have all plagued the young star since South's title triumph in May forcing him to miss all of the 1998/99 campaign to date and many Olyroo outings.

It has been a heart wrenching run which hampered his pre-season and has acted so cruelly. After shaking off his achilles problem he tore his left quadricep. Then, when resuming in a youth team match, he tore his left hamstring. To cruelly dig the dagger in even further, he tore his other hamstring last week during training.

"It's unbelievable. No one can believe it. I'm shattered," Blatsis says.

"This is what I do for a living and I haven't been able to do it."

The run of injuries have had South coaching staff and physiotherapists looking for explanations which may be found in a growth spurt Blatsis has recently experienced.

"They're saying I've grown two inches in the past few months. I've just boomed," Blatsis says.

"I'm actually also putting it down to that because I'm doing everything I can to get better and nothing has gone right."

The spate of injuries would be enough to keep a weaker player down but Blatsis has been wary of losing his concentration for a return.

"I was going through a patch when I was really depressed and Ange (Posteocoglou) would pull me in and talk to me and help me focus," Blatsis says.

"I haven't lost my focus but there are times when I have been very upset.

"I also do worry about my Olyroo commitments."

Blatsis, an integral member of Australia's Sydney 2000 squad, has missed a host of matches in the lead-up to that tournament, seeing team mates Michael Curcija and Tansel Baser take centre stage.

He has also been forced to sit back and watch South defend its crown in 1998/99.

"It's funny being on the sidelines watching your team playing because you see the boys doing things you want to do," Blatsis says.

"I think we're doing well but we haven't had the best of luck."

Blatsis has earmarked his return for the Round 11 home game against league newcomer Northern Spirit.

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NEW ACE SEEKS FIRST GOAL

Jim Tsekinis is head over heels about South Melbourne but as he tells Nicholas Tzaferis, his best will come once he gets his first goal for his new club.

SOUTH Melbourne's Jim Tsekinis makes no attempt to hide that he is very much what is known in the game as a 'confidence player' - the sort of player who, when hot, is very hot.
It's why he can't wait to get his first goal for his new club.
"I'm loving it at South Melbourne but I just haven't scored," Tsekinis says.
"I know that once I get one goal the floodgates will definitely open."
Team mate Steve Iosifidis agrees with the forward's sentiments.
"Once he gets his first goal then you will see the best of him," Iosifidis says.
To label Tsekinis as a goalscorer only would be unfair. He is an innovative and tricky player who says he plays his football as a winger.
It is a position the 23-year-old finds himself comfortable with at South Melbourne whose style of play suits that role.
"At South Melbourne we use the flanks much more with crosses than we did at (former club) Adelaide Sharks," Tsekinis says.
"At Adelaide, we would get the ball in the midfield and try to knock it over the top to the strikers. We didn't use the wings that much."
That is not the only difference Tsekinis has encountered between the Sharks and South Melbourne.
Indeed, without meaning to put down the club he played six years of senior soccer for, Tsekinis says playing for South Melbourne has been fantastic.
He claims it with a hint that he is having the time of his life.
"We have a fantastic team which has a lot of quality and a lot of depth," Tsekinis says.
"That is what makes a championship team. The team unity, also, is something special."
In the last two weeks, Tsekinis experienced his first two Melbourne derbies in the 4-4 draw with Carlton and last week's gritty 1-0 win over Melbourne Knights.
The clashes gave him a real taste for what Melbourne soccer is all about, in contrast to the derby games of Adelaide.
"In Adelaide the derbies were never that physical," Tsekinis says.
"Last week against the Knights was very tough - it was a very physical affair. They wanted to have more of a punch-on than play the game.
"They would always put in that little bit extra with an elbow or a kick behind the play.
"I'm sure that if they were playing against Adelaide Sharks, for example, they wouldn't have been like that."
That derby has been played and won and South now focuses on the Wolves who come to Melbourne confident of toppling the home side.
Tsekinis will be on more of a mission today than just helping South get the three points. A goal, to help get him in scoring mode, will spell ominous times for other opponents in weeks to come.

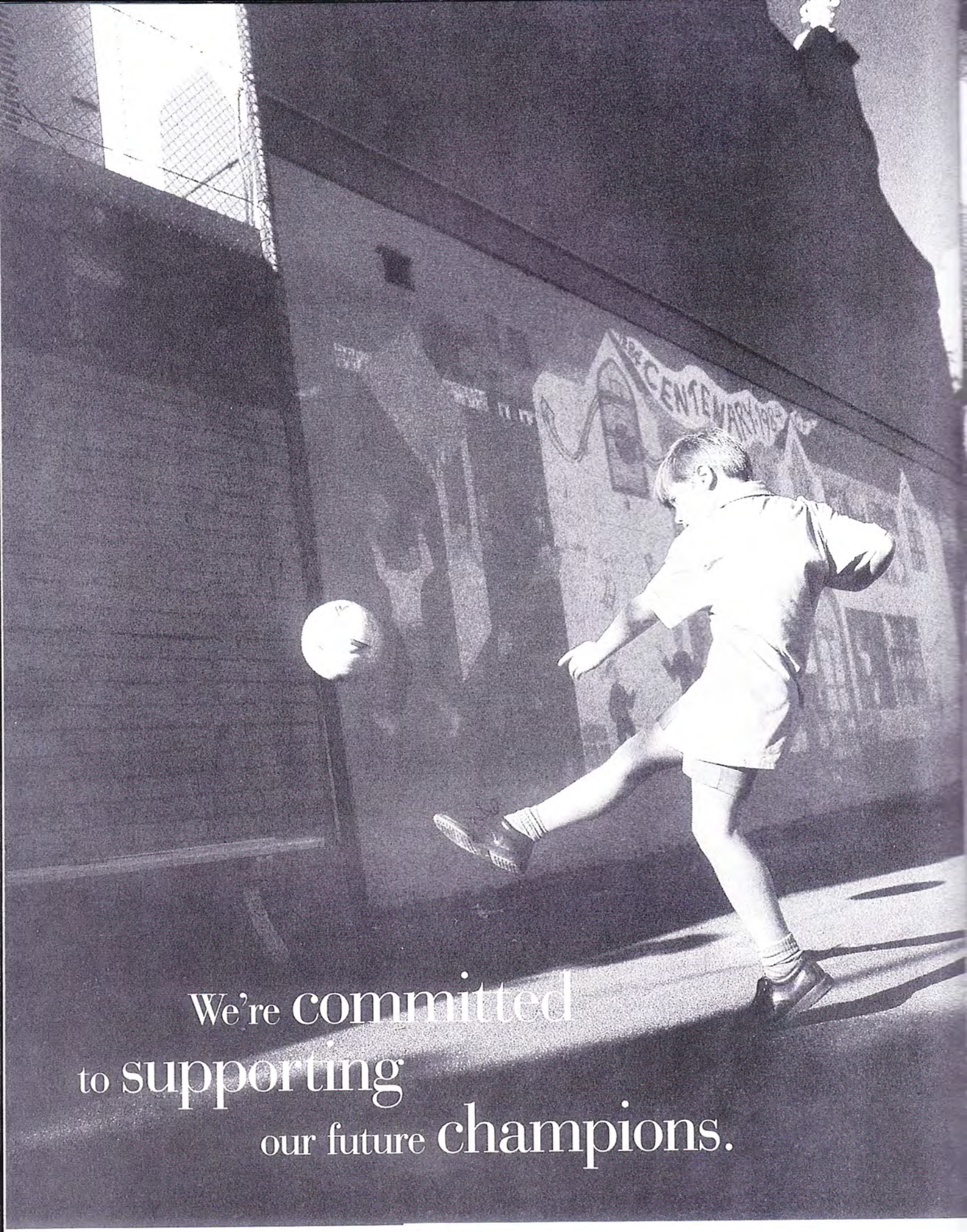
FOCUS ON YOUTH

AFTER a slow start to the campaign, the South Melbourne National Youth league side has shifted into top gear.
John Kennedy's young charges have won their last six games on the trot, including a 4-1 pounding of Melbourne Knights last week. Former Ringwood striker Andrew Mashoian scored a hat-trick, while Erhan Bayraktar nabbed the other.
"They're playing very well," Kennedy said.
"The kids are developing and holding their skills up very admirably."
Senior players to have played with the youth side in recent weeks include Jim Tsekinis, George Goutzioulis and Con Blatsis.
South Melbourne has a bye over the next two weeks before meeting Carlton in the prelude to the senior match against Northern Spirit at the Bob Jane Stadium.

SOUTH Melbourne youth defender Patrick Kisnorbo will join English Division 2 side Fulham on a year's contract later this year.
The 17-year-old defender trialled with Crystal Palace after being spotted playing in the Australian Schoolboys' side. Palace then recommended him to Fulham with whom he has signed a professional contract.

- NICHOLAS TZAFERIS

1998/99 YOUTH SQUAD
1 Tony Calleja; 2 Adem Kose; 3 Patrick Kisnorbo; 4 Sam Klidonas; 5 Ozan Kara; 6 Daniel Malina; 7 Grant Kennedy; 8 Taso Psonis; 9 Erhan Bayraktar; 10 Andrew Mashoian; 11 Gary Efe; 12 Nicholas Marinos; 13 Yianni Zaparas; 14 Scott Hynds; 15 Sokratis Pappas; 16 Chris Smith.



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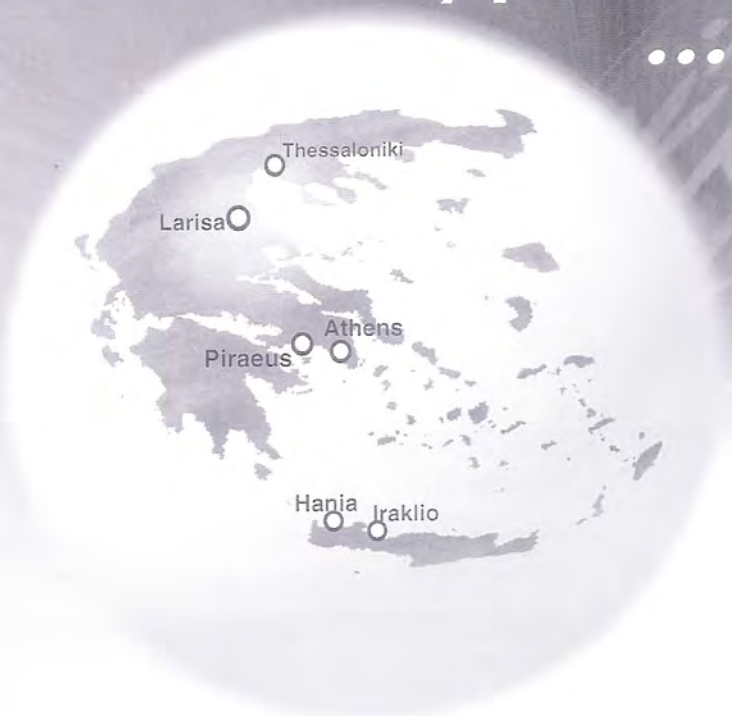

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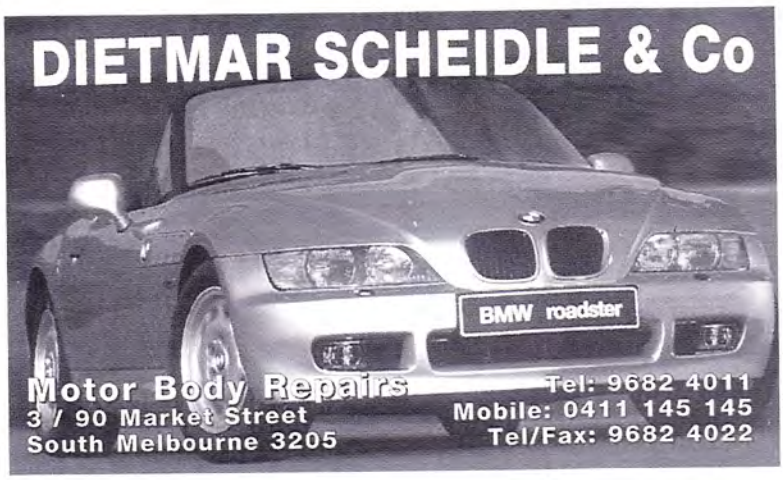

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RND	DATE	DAY	GAME	H/A	TIME
1	11 Oct	Sun	Gippsland Falcons	H	5PM
2	18 Oct	Sun	Adelaide Sharks	A	8PM
3	25 Oct	Sun	Newcastle Breakers	H	6PM
4	31 Oct	Sat	Marconi Fairfield	A	7PM
5	8 Nov	Sun	Sydney Olympic	H	6PM
6	15 Nov	Sun	Perth Glory	A	5PM
7	22 Nov	Sun	Carlton	H	5PM
8	29 Nov	Sun	Melbourne Knights	A	3PM
9	6 Dec	Sun	Wollongong Wolves	H	6PM
10	13 Dec	Sun	Adelaide City	A	7PM
11	20 Dec	Sun	Northern Spirit	H	6PM
12	27 Dec	Sun	Brisbane Strikers	A	7PM
13	3 Jan	Sun	Sydney United	H	6PM
14	11 Jan	Mon	Canberra Cosmos	A	7PM
23	TBA		Perth Glory	TBA	
15	**17 Jan**	**Sun**	**BYE**	-	-

RND	DATE	DAY	GAME	H/A	TIME
16	23 Jan	Sat	Gippsland Falcons	A	7PM
17	26 Jan	Tue	Adelaide Sharks	H	6PM
18	31 Jan	Sun	Wollongong Wolves	A	6.30PM
19	7 Feb	Sun	Melbourne Knights	H	6PM
20	12 Feb	Fri	Newcastle Breakers	A	8PM
21	21 Feb	Sun	Marconi Fairfield	H	6PM
22	28 Feb	Sun	Sydney Olympic	A	6PM
23	**7 Mar**	**Sun**	**GRAND PRIX WEEKEND**		
24	14 Mar	Sun	Carlton	A	5PM
25	21 Mar	Sun	Adelaide City	H	6PM
26	26 Mar	Fri	Northern Spirit	A	7.30PM
27	4 Apr	Sun	Brisbane Strikers	H	6PM
28	11 Apr	Sun	Sydney United	A	5PM
29	18 Apr	Sun	Canberra Cosmos	H	6PM
30	**25 Apr**	**Sun**	**BYE**	-	-

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SOUTH MELBOURNE

	GOALS
1 Michael PETKOVIC (GLK)	.....
2 Steve IOSIFIDIS (DEF)	.....
3 Fausto DE AMICIS (DEF)	.....
4 Nick ORLIC (DEF)	.....
5 Con BLATSIS (DEF)	.....
6 David CLARKSON (MID)	.....
7 Steve PANOPOULOS (MID)	.....
8 Vaughan COVENY (MID)	.....
9 Paul TRIMBOLI (STK)	.....
10 Michael CURCIJA (STK)	.....
11 John ANASTASIADIS (STK)	.....
12 Tansel BASER (DEF)	.....
13 Adrian CUZZUPE (MID)	.....
14 Jason POLAK (MID)	.....
15 Goran LOZANOVSKI (MID)	.....
16 George GOUTZIOULIS (MID)	.....
17 Jim TSEKINIS (STK)	.....
18 Robert LIPAROTI (DEF)	.....
20 Chris Jones (GLK)	.....
22 Mustafa MUSTAFA (STK)	.....

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WOLLONGONG WOLVES
ROUND 9

	GOALS
1 Leslie POGLIACOMI (GLK)	.....
2 George SOURIS (DEF)	.....
3 Alvin CECCOLI (DEF)	.....
4 Robert STANTON (DEF)	.....
5 Sebastian SINOZIC (DEF)	.....
6 Matthew HORSLEY (MID)	.....
7 Michael BROOKS (FWD)	.....
8 Anthony SURJAN (MID)	.....
9 Sasho DIMOSKI (MID)	.....
10 Kosta SALAPASIDIS (FWD)	.....
11 Scott CHIPPERFIELD (FWD)	.....
12 Raymond YOUNIS (DEF)	.....
13 Noel SPENCER (MID)	.....
14 Sasha PETROVSKI (FWD)	.....
15 David HUXLEY (DEF)	.....
16 Damon LANGAN (DEF)	.....
17 Esala MASI (MID)	.....
20 Daniel BELTRAME (GLK)	.....

NORTHERN SPIRIT
ROUND 11

	GOALS
1 John PEROSH	.....
2 Nicholas PURDUE	.....
3 Eddie BOSNAR	.....
4 Ian CROOK	.....
5 Mark RUDAN	.....
6 Luke CASSERLY	.....
7 Kresimir MARUSIC	.....
8 Robbie SLATER	.....
9 Graham ARNOLD	.....
10 Gabriel MENDEZ	.....
11 Troy CRANNEY	.....
12 James STUBBS-MILLS	.....
13 Phillip MOSS	.....
14 Tony PERINICH	.....
15 Scott OLLERENSHAW	.....
16 Daniel WATKINS	.....
17 Paul BILOKAP IC	.....
18 Paul WEARNE	.....
19 Clayton ZANE	.....
20 Peter BLAZINCIC	.....
21 Michael CUNICO	.....
22 Paul HENDERSON	.....
23 Matthew LANGDON	.....
25 Robert ENES	.....

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Entry inside the perimeter fence of the playing area is prohibited at all times and offenders will be prosecuted. All spectators are requested to vacate the ground within 15 minutes of the end of the final game. Police may be requested to remove any unauthorised persons who remain after the stipulated time.
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1998-99 SENIOR SQUAD TEAM PROFILES

PAUL TRIMBOLI
Position: Striker
Born: 25.2.69
Height: 173cm
Weight: 72kg
NSL games: 318
Last Club: Sunshine GC
Internationals: Socceroo
Nickname: Trimmers
Shirt Number: 9

STEVE PANOPOULOS
Position: Midfielder
Born: 23.6.75
Height: 169cm
Weight: 68kg
NSL games: 108
Last Club: (Oakleigh) VIS
Internationals:
Nickname: Pana
Shirt Number: 7

ROBERT LIPAROTI
Position: Defender
Born: 2.04.78
Height: 193cm
Weight: 89kg
NSL games: 8
Last Club: Bulleen
Internationals:
Nickname: Lipa
Shirt Number: 18

GORAN LOZANOVSKI
Position: Midfielder
Born: 11.01.74
Height: 180cm
Weight: 88kg
NSL games: 143
Last Club: Collingwood
Internationals: Socceroo
Nickname: Loza
Shirt Number: 15

NICK ORLIC
Position: Defender
Born: 06.08.70
Height: 6'3"
Weight: 90kg
NSL game 121
Last Club: UTS Olympic
Internationals:
Nickname: Niko
Shirt Number: 4

JIM TSEKINIS
Position: Striker
Born: 08.05.75
Height: 177cm
Weight: 77kg
NSL games:
Last Club: Adelaide Sharks
Internationals: Young Socceroo
Nickname:
Shirt Number: 17

MICHAEL PETKOVIC
Position: Goalkeeper
Born: 16.07.76
Height: 6'3"
Weight: 80kg
NSL games 74
Last Club: Perth Kangaroos
Internationals: Socceroo
Nickname: Petka
Shirt Number: 1

JOHN ANASTASIADIS
Position: Striker
Born: 13.08.68
Height: 179cm
Weight: 78kg
NSL games: 49
Last Club: PAOK (Greece)
Internationals: Young Socceroo
Nickname:
Shirt Number: 11

FAUSTO DE AMICIS
Position: Defender
Born: 26.06.68
Height: 170cm
Weight: 65kg
NSL games: 171
Last Club: Melbourne Knights
Internationals: Socceroo
Nickname: -
Shirt Number: 3

MICHAEL CURCIJA
Position: Striker
Born: 27.06.77
Height: 183cm
Weight: 80kg
NSL games: 62
Last Club: AIS
Internationals: Olyroo
Nickname: Cij
Shirt Number: 10

CON BLATSIS
Position: Defender
Born: 06.07.77
Height: 192cm
Weight: 86kg
NSL games: 65
Last Club: AIS
Internationals: Olyroo
Nickname: Blats
Shirt Number: 5

ADRIAN CUZZUPE
Position: Midfielder
Born: 06.08.80
Height: 178cm
Weight: 72kg
NSL games:
Last Club: Green Gully
Internationals:
Nickname: -
Shirt Number: 13

VAUGHAN COVENY
Position: Striker
Born: 13.12.71
Height: 6'2"
Weight: 84kg
NSL games: 149
Last Club: Wollongong
Internationals: New Zealand
Nickname: Kiwi
Shirt Number: 8

GEORGE GOUTZIOULIS
Position: Midfielder
Born: 18.01.78
Height: 180cm
Weight: 74kg
NSL game 18
Last Club: Bentleigh Greens
Internationals: -
Nickname: Shaggy
Shirt Number: 16

STEVE IOSIFIDIS
Position: Defender
Born: 28.12.73
Height: 184cm
Weight: 75kg
NSL games: 60
Last Club: Heidelberg UTD
Internationals:
Nickname: Yosa
Shirt Number: 2

JASON POLAK
Position: Midfielder
Born: 09.01.68
Height: 5'11"
Weight: 80kg
NSL games: 188
Last Club: Brisbane
Internationals: Socceroo
Nickname: Jay
Shirt Number: 14

DAVID CLARKSON
Position: Midfielder
Born: 01.02.68
Height: 176cm
Weight: 70kg
NSL games: 138
Last Club: Happy Valley (HK)
Internationals:
Nickname: Clarky
Shirt Number: 6

TANSEL BASER
Position: Defender
Born: 17.04.78
Height: 190cm
Weight: 75kg
NSL games: 50
Last Club: Broadmeadows
Internationals: Olyroo
Nickname: -
Shirt Number: 12

MUSTAFA MUSTAFA
Position: Striker
Born: 22.08.79
Height: 178cm
Weight: 69kg
NSL games: -
Last Club: VIS (Melton Reds)
Internationals: -
Nickname: Mus
Shirt Number: 22

CHRIS JONES
Position: Goalkeeper
Born: 10.07.75
Height: 6'2"
Weight: 88kg
NSL games: 1
Last Club: Karingal United
Internationals: -
Nickname: Jonesy
Shirt Number: 20

COACHING STAFF 1998/99

ANGE POSTECOGLOU
Manager/Coach

CARL HALFORD
Assistant Coach

LEANDRO ZARKO
Assistant Coach

Sexy balls. Sexy soccer

THE VISITORS ROUND 9

WOLLONGONG only secured its second win of the season last week but it would take a brave person to write the Illawarra side off as a finals contender.

Wollongong's 4-2 win over struggling Canberra pushed the Club into 11th place, five points behind 6th placed Sydney Olympic.

It hasn't been a sterling start for the Wolves who last season made the finals under canny coach Nick Theodorakopoulos.

The young coach, who has quickly gained respect in the soccer fraternity, has eliminated the defensive, dour game that was so customary for Wollongong and turned the Wolves into one of Australia's most enterprising soccer sides. This season, he has four new players to help the Wolves remain one of the competition's better teams.

Theodorakopoulos has lured les Pogliacomi back to New South Wales after a short stint in Adelaide and also brought Michael Brooks from the Zebras.

Brooks, the 1995 South Australian Player of the Year, works as the Wolves' media officer by day and star striker by evening.

Theodorakopoulos' two other signings are striker Sash petrovski and defender Damon Langan.

Petrovski, 23, who was signed from NSW Super League club Parramatta Eagles, scored in Wollongong's 4-2 win over Cosmos. Langan was signed from Blacktown City.

The new signings are joined by Adelaide City discard Kostas Salapasidis who has signed a three-year-deal with the Wolves. Theodorakopoulos is no doubt smarting over that signing.

Not that the Wolves are short in the talent department. Exciting striker Scott Chipperfield and last season's real discoveries in Anthony Surjan and Alvin Ceccoli complement a handy side led by Matt Horsley.

Horsley must surely have shaken off that underrated tag by now. The Wolves captain has proven to be an exceptional clubman and one of the league's most ferocious midfielders.

The Wolves come to Melbourne with only two wins to date but a real thirst to make it three.

THE VISITORS ROUND 11

AFTER Carlton's exceptional debut Ericsson Cup season, similar expectations were placed upon Northern Spirit in its first season.

After all, if Carlton could make the grand final in its first year, why couldn't the Spirit who has amassed a highly talented squad?

The Spirit, who entered the competition amid much fanfare, have not made a flying start to the season despite boasting a squad many believe to be the envy of its Ericsson Cup opponents.

The North Sydney side, coached by Graham Arnold, attracted some of the league's most sought after talent.

Croatian Kresimir Marusic joins some of the other Ericsson Cup elite of the mid 1990s in Luke Casserly, Troy Cranney, Clayton Zane and Paul Bilokapic at the Spirit/<None>.

The Spirit's biggest drawcards, however, are the Aussies who searched for soccer glory abroad in Robbie Slater, Arnold and ex-Portsmouth boy Robert Enes.

The Spirit also brought Peter Blazincic back to Australia from China and recruited ex-Norwich player Ian Crook.

No new club has matched the drawing power of Perth Glory to date but Northern Spirit is offering a real challenge.

When it meets South Melbourne in Round 11, the beginning of a keen rivalry is likely to be forged.

ERICSSON CUP TABLE & FIXTURES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
PERTH GLORY	8	7	1	0	20	6	22
MARCONI FAIRFIELD	7	5	1	1	17	8	16
SOUTH MELBOURNE	8	4	2	2	17	14	14
CARLTON SC	8	4	1	3	20	10	13
ADELAIDE CITY	7	4	1	2	11	8	13
SYDNEY OLYMPIC	8	4	1	3	14	13	13
Sydney United	8	4	1	3	13	12	13
Adelaide Sharks	7	3	1	3	12	11	10
Northern Spirit	7	3	1	3	6	9	10
Brisbane Strikers	8	2	3	3	11	12	9
Wollongong Wolves	7	2	2	3	9	12	8
Gippsland Falcons	7	2	2	3	4	9	8
Melbourne Knights	7	2	0	5	7	11	6
Newcastle Breakers	7	1	1	5	7	13	4
Canberra Cosmos	8	0	0	8	6	26	0

ROUND 8 RESULTS

Melbourne Knights 0 South Melbourne 1 (Lozanovski)
Adelaide City 3 (Talladira, Kim, Hassell) Sydney United 2 (Caleta, Griffiths)
Sydney Olympic 2 (Cardozo 2) Newcastle Breakers 1 (Umlil)
Northern Spirit 1 (Marusic) Brisbane Strikers 1 (Hews)
Carlton 3 (Moreira 3) Gippsland Falcons 0
Wollongong 4 (Horsley, Chipperfield, Masi, Petrovski) Canberra 2 (Buljan, Magnacca)
Perth Glory 2 (Markovski 2) Adelaide Sharks 1 (Porter)

ROUND 9 FIXTURES

Friday December 4
Newcastle Breakers v Perth Glory
Saturday December 5
Gippsland Falcons v Melbourne Knights
Sunday December 6
SOUTH MELBOURNE v Wollongong
Adelaide Sharks v Carlton
Sydney United v Northern Spirit
Canberra Cosmos v Adelaide City
Marconi Fairfield v Sydney Olympic
Brisbane Strikers - BYE

ROUND 10 FIXTURES

Saturday December 12
Brisbane Strikers v Sydney United
Sunday December 13
Melbourne Knights v Adelaide Sharks
Wollongong Wolves v Gippsland Falcons
Adelaide City v South Melbourne
Canberra Cosmos v Northern Spirit
Perth Glory v Marconi Fairfield
Carlton SC v Newcastle Breakers

NEXT HOME GAME

V Northern Spirit (ROUND 11)
Sunday December 20, 1998 - 6pm

v Sydney United (ROUND 13)
Sunday January 3rd, 1999 - 6pm

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